

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the MANAGING THE ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP held on Tuesday 14 May 2013 at 2.00pm

Present

Councillors: D R Coren, J M Downes, P J Heal (substituting for Cllr Mrs M E Squires), Mrs L J Holloway (substituting for Cllr Mrs D L Brandon), M A Lucas, J D Squire and Mrs N Woollatt.

Apologies

Councillors: Mrs D L Brandon and Mrs M E Squires

Also Present

Councillors: C J Eginton and R L Stanley

Present

Officers: K Finan (Chief Executive), P N Williams (Head of Environmental Services), C Yandle (Internal Audit Team Leader), S Newcombe (Waste and Transport Manager), L Wright (Accountant) and S Gabriel (Member Services Officer)

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN** (Cllr E J Berry, Chairman of the Council, in the Chair)

RESOLVED that Cllr M A Lucas be elected Chairman of the Group for the municipal year 2013/14.

Cllr Lucas then took the Chair

2. **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED that Cllr J D Squire be elected Vice Chairman of the Group for the municipal year 2013/14.

3. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no members of the public present.

4. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 March 2013 were approved as a correct record and **SIGNED** by the Chairman.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman had the following announcements to make:

- He thanked the Group for his re-election and hoped that the Group would continue to work as a team.
- He welcomed Cllr Eginton as the new Cabinet Member for the Environment; he also wished to record his thanks to Cllr Radford for his input over the years as he was part of the team.
- He reported that Catherine Shere (Accountant to the Waste Team) had left the authority and he welcomed Lyn Wright who would now take over this role.
- He reported that he would be attending a meeting with the Cabinet Member and others to discuss a strategic direction for the Waste Service and would report back to the Group.

6. PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT FOR 2012/13 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Group had before it a report* of the Head of Communities and Governance providing Members with an update on performance against the Corporate Plan and local service targets for the 2012/13 financial year as well as providing an update on the key business risks. The Audit Team Leader outlined the contents of the report stating that the amount of waste going to landfill had decreased over the last 3 years at an above target rate despite the rate for 2012/13 being higher than 2011/12 and a campaign to improve recycling rates was on-going. The annual figure for carbon footprint was below target, this was mainly due to an increase in gas use due to the cold Spring but had been partially offset by a saving on electricity due to environmental measures in place.

She continued by outlining the strategic risks applicable to the PDG, discussion followed with regard to:

- Recycling rates and the launch of the Binfo app;
- Possible changes to the way in which performance was reported to aid clarity;

Consideration was given to the key risk of inclement weather postponing waste collection and whether the risk calculation could be reduced as the bad weather policy might mitigate the risk. It was **AGREED** that the Internal Audit Team Leader and the Head of Environmental Services discuss this further.

Note: Report* previously circulated, copy attached to signed minutes.

7. SMOKE FREE PLAY AREAS

Following discussion at the previous meeting, the information requested on signage had been obtained and Members viewed samples of possible signage that could be placed in play areas requesting that the areas remain smoke free. The general consensus was that although the scheme could not be enforced it was fully supported and could form part of the Public Health agenda.

It was therefore:

RESOLVED that the Head of Environmental Services progress a scheme to erect smoke free signage in enclosed play areas where possible across the district.

(Proposed by the Chairman)

8. **WASTE EFFICIENCIES WORKING GROUP**

The Chairman of the Working Group outlined the work of the Working Group to date which included consideration of a policy for waste and recycling and possible strategic scenarios.

The Chief Executive explained that following the change in Cabinet Member, work taking place with Devon County Council on a Waste management Plan and a meeting with the Under Secretary of State, there was a need to reconsider a strategic direction for waste and recycling that was achievable.

A visit to the Exeter Incinerator was considered and it was **AGREED** that the Committee Clerk correspond with Members.

9. **START TIME FOR MEETINGS**

It was **AGREED** that future meetings would continue to take place at 2.00pm.

10. **ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING – 9 JULY 2013**

The following items were identified for the next meeting:

- Air quality issues
- Update on Emergency Plan
- Dog Control Orders
- Work progress presentation from the Waste and Transport Manager

(The meeting ended at 3.33pm)

CHAIRMAN